

Dear Members of Labor and Public Employees Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Tiana Hercules and I live in Hartford, Connecticut. I support Senate Bill No. 1178: *An Act Expanding Connecticut Paid Sick Days*.

I represent the people of Hartford, Connecticut, where our population is significantly more diverse and densely populated than the average town in Connecticut.

For our capital city, public health is a major concern as we live and work closely and already face monumental barriers to equitable healthcare.

Our city buses, our busy workplaces, and our public spaces must be safe and healthy environments for all, or they will be unhealthy for all.

As such, I support an expansion of Paid Sick Days as outlined in Senate Bill No. 1178: *An Act Expanding Connecticut Paid Sick Days*.

1. Cover all workers regardless of employer size or industry!
2. Eliminates the waiting period to take a paid sick day from 680 hours to immediately after you start working!
3. Include all types of family structures and relationships which will allow workers to care for a child of any age, as well as their chosen family! The bill would also allow you to take paid sick time to care for a family member who experiences family violence or sexual assault.
4. Increase the number of hours of paid sick time workers can accrue and use per year from 40 to 80 hours.
5. Protect against future pandemics by allowing paid sick time to be used when a worker's place of work or child's school/place of care is closed by public officials for a public health emergency!

Thank you for your time,
Tiana Hercules Hartford, CT